



Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Number 1

FAITH ALIVE IN '85

The Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference will be held at Emory University on Friday, May 24th and Saturday, May 25th. The theme for our meeting this year is "Faith Alive In '85." The meeting this year will be different from any Annual Meeting that we have had in the past. This will be a year of celebration and inspiration. Dr. Fred Craddock, Professor of Homiletics at Emory will be the Keynote Speaker.

We will have workshops on such subjects as Stewardship, Youth Ministries, Evangelism, Bible Study, Prayer, Christian Education and many more.

There will be a lot of singing, sharing and praising God for all of the benefits to our churches. We even plan to have a "Conference Choir" so we hope that a lot of the choir members from our churches will attend. Since no business will be conducted at our gathering you can have as many people from your church attend as possible. The more people, the better.

There are several things we would like for you to bring besides yourselves: Bring a banner from your church. We would also like for you to bring a rock (Yes, you heard us right!) from your church yard and a small loaf of bread. Come prepared to have a good time of sharing and fellowship with others. Your church should have received brochures which include an application form. (If a larger supply is needed please contact the conference office.) Please mark the dates of May 24-25 on your calendars now.

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FIRST ATLANTA CELEBRATES 118th ANNIVERSARY

First Congregational Church, U.C.C.
(located at 105 Courtland, NE, Atlanta, Georgia) will celebrate its 118th year of existence on Sunday, May 26, 1985.

Since this is the Sunday following our SEC celebration, it is hoped that many of you will stay over in Atlanta to attend the 11:00 a.m. celebration.

1985 SPRING MINI-CAMP TO BE HELD

The 1985 Spring Mini-Camp will be held at Laguna Beach, Florida on April 26-28. All Juniors, Junior Highs, Senior Highs and adults from our Southeast Conference churches are invited to come for a time of Christian fellowship and learning.

This year's camp will end at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 28th to allow campers time on their own for sightseeing or early departure for home. The cost of the camp is still \$30.

All those wishing to register should contact Mr. Shelby Sewell, 110 N. 9th Ave., Lanett, AL 36863. The Laguna Beach Apartments where the camp will be held have a limited number of sleeping accommodations so hurry and send in your registrations as soon as possible.

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ALABAMA-TENNESSEE COORDINATOR

Many of our churches in the Alabama-Tennessee Association are getting acquainted with the new pastor at Church of the Good Shepherd in Crossville, TN. He also serves on 1/3 time basis as Coordinator for the Association. His church gives him one Sunday a month to visit and/or preach in one of the Association churches. We welcome Rev. David Meng Loar, his wife, Sally, and their two children to our area.

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AL-TN MINISTER-AT-LARGE

The Rev. Wilson Welch of Howard United Church of Christ in Nashville fills the office of Minister-At-Large for the Alabama-Tennessee Association. He represents the Association in official capacity at special events and celebrations as well as being available in times of need for clergy and/or churches. You can contact Rev. Welch directly or through the Association office.

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A 100th Anniversary

The Pleasant Hill Community Church of the UCC in Pleasant Hill, TN, the Rev. Robert Peeples, pastor, has been "Serving on the Mountain for 100 Years." That service has changed many times through the various eras of the church. In its early years, through the energy, foresight, spiritual initiative, and dedication of its first pastor, Father Oodge, and the members of the church, the Pleasant Hill Academy was established. The Academy brought education not only to the children and young people but to the adults as well. There was little distinction between the service of the Academy and the ser-

vice of the church. They were one. Today the church continues to serve the village of Pleasant Hill, people beyond the village, the Uplands Retirement Community and has a strong sense of mission to the World.

The 100th Anniversary will be celebrated by a series of special services throughout the year:

March 17 - The Rev. Eric A. Gass of the South Asia Office of the UCBWM, New York

June 9 - The Rev. W. Walter Hall, Muncy, PA, pastor of the church 1972-1982.

August 4 - Or. Victor Obenhaus, Chicago Theological Seminary, Principal of Pleasant Hill Academy 1938-1944.

September 15 - Or. Howard Spragg, New York, retired Executive Vice-President of the UCBWM

October 6 - Or. David Stowe, New York, retired Executive Vice-President of the UCBWM.

November 3 - The Rev. Emmett O. Floyd, Atlanta, GA, Conference Minister of the Southeast Conf. That weekend a Centennial Dinner will climax the festivities of the year.

The pastor and the members of the Pleasant Hill Community Church invite the churches of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ to join them in their celebration.

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CONFERENCE CALENDAR

April, 1985

20 - AL-TN Youth Council Meeting, Belvidere First UCC

26-28-1985 Spring Mini-Camp

May, 1985

3-4 Women's Commission Meeting, Atlanta

3-5 AL-TN Youth Pop-In, Ch. of Good Shepherd, Crossville, TN

24-25 Southeast Conference Celebration: "Faith Alive in '85", Emory University, Atlanta, GA

18 E. AL Men's Fellowship (and their ladies) 7:00 p.m., Pine Forest, Valley, AL

June, 1985

8-9 SEC Board of Directors Planning Retreat, Desoto State Park, Ft. Payne, AL

27-July 3. General Synod, Ames, Iowa

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"Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

Luke 18:17

Mr. Emmett Floyd
Southwest Conference Office
P.O. Box 29183
Atlanta, Ga 30329

Dear Mr. Floyd:

This year our third grade read in our "Weekly Reader" about starving people in Ethiopia. A group of my friends and I collected money and we gave some also. I then my mother sent out a letter in the school. I then I went to the church and they gave me some and the ladies club at Jones Chapel Church gave us a \$100⁰⁰ check. People at school started giving us money. Our total was \$4.15 dollars. Please see that this money helps the people in Ethiopia.

Sincerely,

Dana Howell and the
3rd grade at Flint River Academy

REPORT OF GIVING BY CHURCHES FOR THE YEAR 1984

East Alabama (Cont.)

<u>Alabama-Tennessee Assoc.</u>	<u>O C W M</u>	<u>SPECIAL/DIRECTED GIFTS</u>
Athens, Trinity	\$	\$
Alpine, King's Chapel	\$	\$
Belvidere, First United	\$ 6,200.21	\$ 7,642.85
Birmingham, First	\$ 2,306.65	\$ 100.00
Birmingham, Pilgrim	\$ 7,980.00	\$ 200.00
Chattanooga, First	\$	\$ 25.00
Chattanooga, Pilgrim	\$ 14,228.00	\$ 4,014.67
Crossville, Ch. of Good Shep.	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,339.58
Cullman, St. John's	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Oaisy, First CC	\$	\$
Deer Lodge, CC	\$ 725.00	\$ 35.00
Fairfield Glade, Community	\$ 1,703.75	\$ 935.50
Garden City, CC	\$ 462.00	\$
Glen Mary, CC	\$ 300.00	\$ 73.00
Huntsville, UCC	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 3,076.52
Knoxville, Ch. of Savior	\$ 727.00	\$ 949.91
Marion, First	\$	\$
Montgomery, First	\$ 3,328.35	\$
Nashville, Brookmeade	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 717.00
Nashville, First E & R	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 997.00
Nashville, Howard	\$ 400.00	\$
Pleasant Hill, Community	\$ 12,000.00	\$15,921.79
Robbins, Barton Chapel	\$ 250.00	\$ 100.00
Sweetwater, First	\$	\$
Talladega, First United	\$	\$
Tougaloo, Union	\$	\$
Total	\$ 72,560.96	\$40,327.82
<u>North Alabama Assoc.</u>	\$ 500.00	\$
Arley, CC	\$	\$
Caddo, First	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 68.90
Hackleburg, Fairview	\$	\$
Haleyville, Union Grove	\$	\$
Hanceville, Mt. Grove	\$	\$
Houston, Liberty Hill	\$	\$
Moulton, Jones Chapel	\$ 100.00	\$
Steele, Mt. Lebanon	\$	\$
Town Creek, Old Liberty	\$	\$
Total.....	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 68.90
<u>Central Alabama Assoc.</u>		
East Tallassee, CC	\$ 765.00	\$ 180.00
Eclectic, Watson's Chapel	\$ 100.00	\$
Total.....	\$ 865.00	\$ 180.00
<u>East Alabama Association</u>	\$	\$ 847.75
Alexander City, First	\$ 480.00	\$ 86.00
Columbus, First	\$ 100.00	\$
Columbus, United	\$	\$
Dadeville, Elder	\$ 200.00	\$
Five Points, State Line	\$ 75.00	\$
LaFayette, Pleasant Grove	\$ 700.00	\$ 206.33

LaGrange, Hillside
 LaGrange, United
 Lanett, CC
 Lanett, Pine Forest
 Langdale, CC
 Lineville, New Harmony
 Phenix City, Russell Woods
 Pine Mountain, Oak Grove
 Pisgah, CC
 Roanoke, Antioch
 Roanoke, Bethany
 Roanoke, First
 Roanoke, Forest Home
 Roanoke, Lowell
 Roanoke, Mt. Zion
 Roanoke, New Hope
 Roanoke, Rock Spring
 Roanoke, Rock Stand
 Shawmut, Todd
 Wadley, Beulah
 Wadley, Christian
 Wadley, Corinth
 Wedowee, Cavers Grove
 Wedowee, Noon Day
 West Point, Bethel
 Woodbury, Jones Chapel

Total.....

South Alabama-Northwest Flc

Andalusia, Antioch
 Andalusia, First
 Baker, Good Hope
 Baker, Pyron
 Bonifay, New Effort
 Brantley, Indian Creek
 Brantley, Liberty
 Clio, New Hope
 Headland, Blackwood

Total.....

Georgia-South Carolina Assc

Ambrose, Christian
 Atlanta, Carroll Heights
 Atlanta, Central
 Atlanta, First
 Atlanta, Rush Memorial
 Barnesville, Fredonia
 Beachton, Evergreen
 Braselton, Macedonia
 Buford, Ouncan's Creek
 Charleston, Circular
 Charleston, Plymouth
 Demorest, Federated
 Oewey Rose, Liberty
 Jonesboro, Bonanza

<u>OCWM</u>	<u>Special/Directed</u>
\$	\$
\$ 1,296.00	\$
\$ 6,968.00	\$ 3,880.27
\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,125.05
\$ 3,471.00	\$ 171.01
\$	\$
\$ 1,400.00	\$ 226.00
\$ 1,875.00	\$ 169.55
\$	\$
\$ 600.00	\$
\$ 350.00	\$
\$ 750.00	\$ 442.50
\$ 150.00	\$
\$ 400.00	\$
\$	\$
\$ 600.00	\$ 63.17
\$	\$
\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00
\$	\$ 150.00
\$	\$
\$ 200.00	\$ 50.00
\$ 500.00	\$
\$ 50.00	\$
\$ 450.00	\$
\$ 250.00	\$
\$ 800.00	\$
... \$ 24,765.00	\$ 7,717.63
<u>orida Assoc.</u>	
\$ 1,000.00	\$ 235.00
\$	\$
\$ 300.00	\$
\$ 300.00	\$ 410.00
\$ 100.00	\$
\$	\$
\$	\$
\$	\$
\$ 966.00	\$ 196.58
.... \$ 2,666.00	\$ 841.58
<u>oc.</u>	
\$	\$
\$	\$
\$ 17,496.00	\$ 5,374.17
\$ 9,000.00	\$
\$ 500.00	\$
\$ 200.00	\$ 150.00
\$ 300.00	\$
\$ 400.00	\$
\$	\$
\$ 3,958.30	\$ 500.00
\$	\$
\$ 400.00	\$ 58.00
\$ 400.00	\$
\$ 800.00	\$

<u>Georgia-South Carolina (Cont.)</u>	<u>OCWM</u>	<u>SPECIAL/DIRECTED</u>
Lilburn, Button Gwinnett	\$ 442.75	\$ 923.40
Macon, First	\$	\$
Marietta, Pilgrimage	\$ 1,261.14	\$ 401.81
Midway, Congregational	\$ 200.00	\$ 103.00
Savannah, First	\$ 1,116.00	\$ 606.00
Thomasville, Bethany	\$ 250.00	\$
Columbia, Fellowship	\$ 480.00	\$
Total.....	\$ 37,204.19	\$ 8,116.38
Grand Total -	\$139,861.15	\$57,252.31

RECAP: (SPECIAL/DIRECTED)

One Great Hour of Sharing -	\$20,088.86
Neighbors in Need -	\$ 7,897.31
Family Thank Offering -	\$ 2,197.01
Veterans of the Cross -	\$ 5,396.32
Hunger Action -	\$ 4,734.04
New Church Development -	\$ 6,437.00
Elon Home for Children -	\$ 2,437.45
Habitat for Humanity -	\$ 290.00
Morgan-Scott Project -	\$ 2,050.00
Emmaus Home -	\$ 155.00
Uplands -	\$ 1,726.00
Fisk University -	\$ 1,000.00
Other Benevolences -	\$ 1,843.32
	\$57,252.31



"BLESSED ARE
THE PEACEMAKERS
FOR THEY SHALL BE
CALLED THE CHILDREN
OF GOD"

MATTHEW 5:9

JOYCE MYERS WRITES FROM CENTRAL AMERICA
-- October 28, 1984

"It's only been 10 days since my last letter; but, again, I have had so many moving experiences that this letter can only scratch the surface. You all will have to be real patient with me when I get home because there's so much I'll want to share-- for years to come!

Let me begin now with El Salvador ...While I experienced despair and yet hope in Nicaragua, El Salvador was just overwhelming. All I could think of were the earliest days of fear and oppression and violence that I had known in Angola in the 60's and early 70's under the Portuguese colonial regime and the struggle for independence.

Some Salvadoran vignettes:--

--Meeting someone from the Independent Commission on Human Rights--4 of whose co-workers have been killed by the Death Squad and 4 others disappeared--and being shown albums of hundreds of mutilated corpses, albums that families come to look at when searching for loved ones who have disappeared...

--Listening with tears overflowing to women from the Committee of Mothers whose husbands or parents or children have been murdered or disappeared...

--Then hearing our Ambassador tell us how greatly human rights have improved under Duarte... and later listening to the head of the official Salvadoran government Human Rights Commission claiming there are no Death Squads, only "occasional incidents caused by hoodlums."

--Palpable fear and terror where no one speaks without looking over their shoulder first. (How that reminded me of Angola and the secret police, P10E).

--Visiting a church agricultural project and talking with 'campesinos' (poor farmers) about their life's struggle--without land, schools, etc.--and thinking no wonder there's a revolution underway!

--The feel of a child's hand in mine at a Baptist orphanage near San Salvador serving a few of the thousands of children orphaned and traumatized by the war (and still we send more bombs...). Children hungry for food, affection, security -- many in the last stages of malnutrition when they arrive here. My heart bled for them.

--Visiting a Roman Catholic Church serving as sanctuary for 320 refugees (displaced persons

from the war zones), many of whom have lived in this dark, crowded, smelly basement for 4 years, knowing that if they step outside they will be killed as 'subversives.'

--Seeing government soldiers forcibly rounding up 'volunteers' for the army... Soldiers are everywhere and even McDonald's has two armed guards. Fear and terror abound.

--Conversations and services with brothers and sisters in Christ who through all this continue to preach and live the Gospel, as did Archbishop Romero...

--The last day we worshipped at a refugee camp called 'Fe y Esperanza' ("Faith and Hope") where the Lutheran Church is at work. We were deeply moved when we were each given a gift--a cross made in the camp and presented to us by the children. A refugee leader reminded us of our oneness in Christ and asked that together we carry the cross and work towards peace...Later, privately, he said, 'Please make your government stop sending arms. Let us go home and work and live...'

--A Salvadoran theologian challenging us to be part of the "Project of Life" rather than the "Project of Death"...

Then on to Guatemala

This too is a land of death squads and missing people but the war is more 'contained' than in El Salvador, and Guatemala City gives the illusion of peace and calm. It is a beautiful country with gentle, gracious people and bright vivid colors, but also a land in revolution...Vignettes:

--Hearing about the "Village of Widows" an Indian village where all the men and boys over 10 years of age were killed. Now the widows and children have been moved to a "model village"--which many describe as a concentration camp...

--Reading in the paper an ad with the picture of a young man labeled "disappeared" and his family's plea for information about him, adding that "he's a good boy, not involved in politics."

--Admiring beautiful Indian handwork and weaving in the old town of Antigua but realizing that the war has badly hurt tourism and so they have a daily struggle to survive.

--Appreciating the ministry of a Disciples of Christ congregation that is working with drug addicts. We listened to moving testi-

JOYCE MYERS WRITES FROM CENTRAL AMERICA (cont)

monies by several ex-addicts.

--Preaching at a house church (potential base community) on the edge of a huge slum with 40,000 people, the vast majority illiterate and unemployed (but fleeing war and poverty in the rural areas). This congregation will soon begin literacy work there and hopes to develop a clinic and cooperative.

--Visiting with a Christian friend whose brother was murdered by a death squad and yet who sees her mission as working with the oppressed...which may mean putting her own life in danger.

--Listening to a nun describing the plight of refugees and, when asked about the future and any hope for peaceful change, telling me, "I only see violence and more violence."

--Being told about our country's role in supporting the right-wing military regime and the oligarchy that controls the economy. In spite of our commitment to freedom and democracy, we continually choose the "wrong side"...

--Enjoying a light moment when I discovered that the hotel clerk is an avid 'Braves' fan ("it takes one to know one"!!). They get some games by satellite. We had a delightful half hour of Braves' talk!

And on that lighter note, I came on here to Costa Rica, the "Garden of the Americas," also called the "Switzerland of the Americas" a country without an army--but being pushed in that direction. For me this is the first time in almost a month with no soldiers, no military checkpoints, no gun shots in the night...but Costa Rica is suffering from economic problems (and most, or much, business is in U.S. hands) and from pressure from our government to arm themselves to "defend Costa Rica against a Nicaraguan invasion"....

My time here thus far has focused on two things--the first, becoming familiar with the Latin American Biblical Seminary and PRODLADIS (Theological Education at a Distance), CELEP (Latinamerican Evangelical Center for Pastoral Studies) and ALFALIT (Literacy and basic education)--all of which we support through OCWM--and all of which are in exciting, vital ministries.

The other focus has been a personal one--a rich, rich time of fellowship with dear friends from Angola, Ernesto and Alice Pongolola and their little girls, Celi and Laura. Ernesto was my student at the seminary in Angola and is here in Costa Rica for advanced theological studies. His deep commit-

ment to the church--and to the people of pe Angola --really inspires me. We had hours of nonstop Angola talk this weekend!

And speaking of old friends--and what a sma world this is--I spent last evening with a good friend of Central Congregational Church Dow Kirkpatrick. We happen to be here at the same hotel. He continues to work at interpreting the reality of Latin America and the church and its mission, to folk back home.

I'm sure he would join me in saying, let us work for "peace through justice" in Latin America....

Blessings and love,
Joyce

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SOUTHERN REGIONAL WOMEN'S MEETING

The Conferences of the Southern Region will be having their Women's Retreat October 11-13, 1985, at Dubose Conference Center, Monteagle, TN. The theme is "Women at the Well: Ripples of Living Water" with the Rev. Ann Asper Wilson of Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis as the resource person. The cost is \$57.00 with a limit of 200 registrants. Look for details soon on how to register.

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NEW FORMS EXCHANGE

New Forms Exchange is a joint resourcing effort of the Conferences and Division of Christian Education, Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ. It provides subscribers an annual exchange of some of the most innovative Christian Education programs in the United Church of Christ. It is assembled each year through Conference Christian Education Staff people sending to the Editor the names of people doing exciting programing in Christian Education. The Editor then contacts these people as to their willingness to write an article for the New Forms Exchange. These articles are collected, edited, copied and mailed to those who have paid a pre-mailing subscription fee of \$3.50. If you would like to receive the next mailing or a past mailing or if you have an innovative program you would like to exchange please write: Lee A. Moore, Editor, New Forms Exchange, UCBHM, 132 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001.

NEWS and NOTES

The Rev. Mark Cole is the new pastor of Pilgrimage UCC in Marietta, GA.

New Association Moderators:

Rev. Donald W. Scovill - East Alabama
Ms. Wayne Burton - Central Alabama

The Rev. Eugene Keen of Huntsville UCC underwent open-heart surgery in March, 1985. We rejoice with him on his speedy recovery.

The Rev. Patti Grier has resigned from the Robbins Parish in TN and is now pastor of Community Church, Partridge, Kansas.

The Rev. Henry Tuttle has resigned as pastor of Pilgrim Congregational in Birmingham.

Rev. Paul Johnson has resigned the pulpit at First Congregational in Montgomery, AL.

We welcome the Rev. Albert Seely and his wife Betty to the Conference. They moved to Pleasant Hill, TN for retirement from 1st Congregational in Hatfield, Mass. In addition to serving 3 parishes he served most of his ministry with Christian colleges and universities in Asia.

UCC minister, Rev. Alex Ferguson and his wife, Elizabeth, are personally conducting a "Peace Pilgrimage" to the Soviet Union from July 6-28. The group will meet and discuss with Soviet leaders, clergymen, and Jews. The price is

\$2,150 all inclusive. If interested, contact: Tours by Ferguson, 5900 Shore Blvd. S, Gulfport, FL 33707 - (813) 347-7048

The Southeast Conference wishes to extend its deepest sympathy to the wife and family of the Rev. William Hodnett who passed away at his home in Lanett, AL in March. He will be greatly missed.

Rev. Edwin White, pastor of Pleasant Hill Community from 1927 to 1944 wrote a book, Highland Heritage, in the midst of his busy pastorate there. It was published by Friendship Press in 1937, and is out of print. If anyone has a copy of this book and is willing to donate it to the church, please send it to: Rev. Robert F. Peeples, Box 167, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578.

A group of lay persons from the North Alabama and East Alabama Men's Fellowships had a successful work-day at Camp Grand-View near Montgomery on March 22-23. They furnished both materials and labor in re-roofing one of the cabins at the camp. Conference Minister Emmett O. Floyd and Associate Conference Minister Warren A. Blankenhorn were along to provide moral support and "supervision".

The Ohio and Indiana Council of Churches ask that we support the strike of 2,000 farmworkers who harvest tomatoes for Campbell's products by not collecting Campbell's labels.

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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30359

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